



Eighteen Harrison Co. ATC Students Inducted Into National Technical Honor Society



Front row (l-r): Kayleigh Ross (office technology), Gretchen Merrill (office technology), Tiffany Bussell (office technology), April Claypoole (health sciences), Megan Conway (welding), Bridget Hill (health sciences), and Hannah Smith (office technology).

Back row (l-r): KY Tech Area Supervisor Mary Stratton, Evan Duszynski (IT), Christopher Bellis-Jones (office technology), Darryl Dennie (machine tool technology), Joshua Fryman (IT), Chris Marksberry (IT), Drew Downing (industrial maintenance technology), Mark Woolums (carpentry), and Harrison Co. ATC Principal John Hodge.

Not available for photo: Matthew Brown (carpentry), Andrew Cordray (machine tool technology), Jonathan Jones (industrial maintenance), and Jessica Chapman (office technology).

“Excellence in America's Workforce Begins with Excellence in Workforce Education.” This motto is used by the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS), a national organization that acknowledges the recognition of outstanding student achievement in career and technical education.

On the evening of May 4, 2006, 18 Harrison Co. ATC students were recognized, during a special NTHS ceremony, for meeting the ATC's established standards of excellence in career and technical education. The Cynthiana Elks Club was host to over 80 people including parents, teachers, advisory committee members and special guests for a dinner and awards program to celebrate the exemplary accomplishments of students inducted into the NTHS.

According to the NTHS website, “Member schools agree that NTHS encourages higher scholastic achievement, cultivates a desire for personal excellence, and helps top students find success in today's highly competitive workplace.” Harrison Co. ATC Principal John Hodge wholeheartedly agrees and has supported the creation and existence of the NTHS at his school for the past eight years.

“This program is a primary example of what all of us at the Harrison Co. ATC try to instill in our students from the day they walk in our front door. All of my teachers support this organization and are pleased to be able to recommend their students for this honor and recognition,” says Hodge.

“The goal of the society is to see that deserving technical education students be recognized and the people of the community become aware of the talents and abilities of students who choose vocational technical education pathways to a successful career. And, we are always proud to promote the outstanding accomplishments of our students.”



Photo (l to r): Mr. Steve Meyers, and NTHS members Ashley Spence and Chris Marshall who helped with the ceremony. Ashley, a second year member says, “It’s amazing because I felt honored to meet all the criteria to become a member and now, I’m in a position to welcome new members to the organization.”

“I was surprised when Mr. Lail, my carpentry teacher, informed me that I had been nominated for this award and it made me feel good about what I had achieved,” says Marshall. “I’m glad to help because I know what it means to these students.”

According to Mr. Steve Myers, a counselor at the school and coordinator of the program for the past six years, “Students should be recognized for their achievements in both academic and technical education studies. The NTHS local chapter provides them with that special ceremony to commemorate a total educational experience through their technical education program. We all wish them success in their professional careers with the knowledge, skills and abilities they have learned and developed. We know with confidence, they can enter the workforce and become successful.”

The Harrison Co. ATC National Technical Honor Society committee has established the following criteria for a student to become inducted into the NTHS:



- **Must have a minimum cumulative overall high school GPA of 3.0**

- **Must have a 95% attendance rate**



- **Must write an essay describing their participation in a student organization or involvement in a community service project.**

- **Must be recommended by a technical education teacher**

- **Must have the approval of the ATC Administrator's Selection Committee**

For additional information about the NTHS and how your ATC can become a member, please visit <http://www.nths.org/RecognizeStudents.asp>

Students can learn about the benefits of becoming an NTHS member by visiting this link: <http://www.nths.org/Student/Benefits.asp>



Hannah Smith, a junior at Harrison Co. HS and office technology student under the direction of Mrs. Vicki Whitaker, said, “It’s an honor to receive this recognition and it will help me achieve greater positions in the future.” Of her instructor and course work, Smith said, “I like the amount of responsibility I have at the ATC. We are treated like adults. Mrs. Whitaker is a great teacher and she has encouraged me to become involved in FBLA. I am now the treasurer of our local chapter.”

“Hannah is one of the hardest working students in my class. She always strives for excellence in everything she does. She has been a great mentor to our elementary students through her involvement in the Junior Achievement program and other activities we do with the elementary school,” says Whitaker. “I personally nominated two students for this award. Both are excellent students and very deserving. However, we all appreciate this program because we can nominate more than one of our high achievers and are not limited in recognizing only the top ranked student in our class”

Smith’s future plans are to study architecture at UK.



Harrison Co. Information Technology Instructor Judy Burns recommended Evan Duszynski, a junior at Harrison Co. HS and a student in her program, for induction into the NTHS.

“I nominated Evan because he is one of those young adults who is an all around genuine person. Not only is he helpful to us at school, but he gives 100% in any endeavor, as well as being an honor roll student,” says Burns. “I like the NTHS program because it actually combines the academic and technical education studies of each student. I also like the fact that this program includes attendance and community service projects in addition to the GPA. This provides an overall well rounded view of our students.”

“It’s an honor that my teacher thinks enough of me to nominate me for this award. I’m happy my hard work paid off,” says Duszynski. “I like my classes at the ATC because I can work with my hands and it’s different than a regular class.”

Duszynski is also enrolled in Ellie Pribble’s health sciences program and plans to major in “some type of science field and go to a dental school.”



Last summer Evan was hired to help refurbish 40 computers by upgrading hardware and installing software. Harrison Co. ATC Principal John Hodge says, “This young man did an excellent job and we plan to rehire him for some additional help during this summer.”

KY Tech Area Supervisor Mary Stratton participated in the program by presenting each student with his or her official NTS certificate.

“This is the type of program every ATC should have as part of its recognition events because it rewards excellence, promotes a positive image of career and technical education students and provides them with many benefits,” says Stratton. “It also incorporates individual accomplishments, teamwork through community projects, and leadership activities. I’m so proud of our teachers and school staff for taking the time to care about their students and working toward making this program a success at the Harrison Co. ATC. It has been a wonderful evening and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting these students and their parents.”

Photo: Christopher Bellis-Jones (right), an office technology student under Instructor Ann Chrusciel, receives his certificate from KY Tech Area Supervisor Mary Stratton.

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